

of recommending to the student the keeping by him, for constant reference, a *pattern rod*, at the most approved rule, accurately drawn to a large scale. With this he may constantly compare his drawings made by hand, and be enabled to judge of the improvement he is making.

I have extended this letter far beyond what I at first intended, but the interesting nature of the subject must be my apology.

I remain, Sir, yours very respectfully,

S. HENCOCKS.

Liverpool, February 20, 1844.

SIR,—As I have no doubt you are a votary to the opinions (which, indeed, are but the record of facts) inserted in No. 51 of your publication, upon "Modern Arches," taken from the "*Essay on the Decline of Excellence in Architecture and in the Science of Modern English Buildings*," otherwise I doubt if you would have inserted them in *THE BUILDER*. I wish you would just take an arch look at the "*new walls*," which in spite of prudence and decency are being formed in the new houses which are now in course of erection in the intended street between Holborn-bridge and Chick-lane. I myself have attempted to reason with the Builders who were setting them out, but the only reply I could obtain was, "Faith, they can never go, being joined for ever, and purgatory through and through, with cement, carted from Broken Wharf be me own self."

I am, Sir, the most profound respect, your sincere friend,

FRANCIS FRANKLIE,  
Farringdon-street, 36th February, 1844.

[Francis Franklie, of Farringdon-street, is a funny fellow. According to his request, we have looked at the fabricious question; and have not conceived from his letter too high an idea of his honesty and solidity of judgment, we might have imagined the "FLAW-WALLS" in question to be Mr. Franklie's own workmanship.—ED.]

#### DELAYS IN FORMING PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS.

SIR,—Observing that the number of your number some very proper remarks relative to the ruinous consequences of leaving in a state of abeyance public improvements when partly done, I send for insertion in your next number a copy of the petition of thirty-eight inhabitants of the parishes of St. Giles's-in-the-Fields and St. George's, Bloomsbury, lately presented to the House of Commons on the same subject, which was in the following words, viz.:

"That your petitioners view with the greatest concern the delay made in carrying into effect the several improvements contemplated under the provisions of an Act passed in the fourth and fifth years of the reign of her present Majesty, intituled, 'An Act to empower the Commissioners of the Bank of England to raise money for certain improvements in the metropolis, on the security of the land revenues of the Crown, within the county of Middlesex and city of London.'"

"That a Bill is now in progress before your honourable House to enlarge the powers granted by the above-named Act of Parliament, which is to empower the governor and company of the Bank of England to advance and lend money for her Majesty's Commissioners of Woods, Forests, Land Revenues, Works and Buildings, on the security of the land revenues of the Crown.

"That your petitioners are tradesmen, depending upon the custom of the surrounding neighbourhood—that they have expended considerable sums in the purchase of leases, and bestowed much time and industry in promoting and improving their several establishments.

"That the Commissioners of Woods and Forests, in carrying out the provisions of the Act already named, have, as it appears to your petitioners, shewn greater alacrity in removing houses than in providing for the erection of new buildings; a vast number of houses having been pulled down without any spot being absolutely cleared for rebuilding; nor, so far as your petitioners perceive, have any preparations been made for restoring the neighbourhood; on the contrary, the commissioners continue to pull down a few houses here and there over a large district. The result is that your petitioners' customers are driven away, and trade nearly annihilated.

"That the number of houses that have

been settled for, and which have been vacated, is very considerable, and that the amount of rates paid by your petitioners is thereby greatly increased.

"Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that such relief may be granted as to the wisdom of your honourable House may seem meet, in order that the improvements above to be effected may be carried out with due celerity, and also that those who live in and by the locality may not incur ruin.

"And your petitioners further humbly pray that your honourable House will be pleased to direct that the said Commissioners of Woods and Forests will immediately select any part of their extensive plan for the improvement of the parishes of St. Giles's-in-the-Fields, and St. George's, Bloomsbury, and finish the portion so selected before they proceed to discuss what yet remains of the population of those districts.

"And your petitioners shall ever pray."

The following account will afford a just idea of the great delay which has occurred in carrying forward the improvements in our neighbourhood, and will shew how ruinous that delay must be to the remaining inhabitants.

STREETING.	DATE WHEN PULLED DOWN.	DATE WHEN REBUILT.
St. Giles's-in-the-Fields, (from 1st to 10th street, Vinegar-yard, Ber.)	February and March, 1840	August and Nov., 1843
St. Giles's-in-the-Fields, (from 11th to 15th street, Vinegar-yard, Ber.)	March and April, 1842	June, 1843 and June, 1843
Broad-street, north side (1)	April and December, 1842	June, 1843 and May, 1843
Broad-street, south side (2)	April, 1842	June, 1843 and May, 1843
High-street, part 3 and 6	April and June, 1842	June, 1843 and April, 1843
High-street, part 1 and 2	April and June, 1842	June, 1843 and April, 1843
Charlotte-street (1st Part)	April and June, 1842	June, 1843 and April, 1843
Charlotte-street (2nd Part)	April and June, 1842	June, 1843 and April, 1843
King-street (1st Part)	April and June, 1842	June, 1843 and April, 1843
King-street (2nd Part)	April and June, 1842	June, 1843 and April, 1843
Museum-court (1)	April and June, 1842	June, 1843 and April, 1843
West side of Charlotte-street	April and June, 1842	June, 1843 and April, 1843
No. 1, Museum-street	April and June, 1842	June, 1843 and April, 1843

The metropolitan improvements in St. Giles's and St. George's, Bloomsbury, could have been commenced and finished in six different places each separately, and that in accordance with the plan and Act.

1. The widening of Plumtree-street.
2. Forming a street from Broad-street to Longacre, viz., the widening of Bowly-yard, Belton-street, and Hanover-street.
3. Museum-street, from the corner of Hart-street to Holborn.
4. High-street to Charlotte-street.
5. Charlotte-street to Museum-street.
6. Widening of King-street.

Feeling obliged to you for having broached the subject, I beg to subscribe myself, Sir, Your very devoted humble servant,

A PLUMBER & JOINER IN PLUMTREE-STREET.  
Bloomsbury, 27th February, 1844.

[We should be most particularly obliged by receiving from our correspondents accounts of cases, whether settled by private contract, arbitration, or verdict, of compensation for property taken for forming public improvements, railways, docks, &c.—ED.]

#### PLUMBERS' AND JOINERS' WAIVES.

SIR,—In your last, "A Surveyor, and Constant Reader" of your useful work, wishes to know why a plumber has more wages, and

works less time than a joiner. Let him answer these questions.—Which is the more healthy? Does not a plumber lose more time than a joiner, by his repeated attacks of rheumatism and asthma, brought on by damp, and his exposure to the vapours of the metals, which his business subjects him to? How many journey-men plumbers have you seen above 50 years of age-capable of work? When answering these simple questions, you will find the custom (as you term it) by no means a bad one.

Yours truly,

A MASTER PLUMBER.

#### ONE-HORSE SAW-MILL.

SIR,—Would you or any of your correspondents oblige a constant subscriber by informing me whether or not it is practicable to construct a saw-mill to work with one horse, and if it is, on what principle. The greatest power I should want to obtain would be to saw 11 inch deal planks.

I am, Sir, your humble servant,

London.

H. P. W.

#### Miscellaneous.

WELLINGTON CITY STATUE.—A meeting of the committee for the erection of this tribute from the city to the Duke of Wellington, in grateful acknowledgment of his grace's civil services, took place at the Mansion-house last week. A letter from Mr. Trevelyan, of the Treasury, was read, in which their lordships sanctioned the appropriation of the surplus metal of guns placed at the disposal of Sir Francis Chantrey, to execute his statue, one moiety to the Nelson column in Trafalgar-square, and the other to the great Wellington statue now casting by Mr. Wyatt, for the erection in the metropolis. The question is above eight tons. It was moved by Sir Peter Laurie, and seconded by Sir James Duke, that the committee had much pleasure in complying with the Treasury minute, which, after considerable discussion, was unanimously agreed to. It was then moved by Mr. Jerdan, and seconded by Mr. Francis, that a letter should be written to the executors of Sir F. Chantrey, requesting them to have the statue ready for inauguration on the 18th of June next, the anniversary of Waterloo, which was also carried unanimously.

THE NEW ROYAL EXCHANGE.—On Monday, Mr. Pullen commenced the sale by auction of the second portion of Bank-buildings, which will comprise the Sun Fire-office, the secretary's residence, and two other houses. The disposal of the materials took place in the large room of the Sun Fire-office, and it was crowded throughout the entire proceeding. The competition was very animated, and lots put up being principally purchased by private individuals, and not by the trade, as many of the articles consisted of excellent mahogany counters, desks, &c. The day's sale produced about 3000l., making 1,600l. for what has already been disposed of. The sale was concluded on Wednesday, and the attendance of buyers was as numerous as at the commencement. The bricks of the Sun Fire-office produce nearly 400l.; and the entire sale realised 2,820l.

#### IMPROVEMENTS IN HUNGERFORD MARKET.

—The improvements are now in course of execution beneath the covered portion of the market. The market-sheds which ran from north to south on each side the middle colonnade, have in part been pulled down, and in their place has been erected framework for a double row of shops with fronts east and west, and occupying the space hitherto taken up by the sheds and stalls just referred to. Some of the new shops, it is said, will be in appearance with those of Covent-garden Market, and besides being appropriated for the sale of choice fruits and vegetables, there will be some of them fitted for what is termed the "fancy" portion of butchers' and cheesemongers' trades.

THE WILKIE STATUE.—The following inscription, proposed by Lord Mahon, is to be placed upon the statue to Sir David Wilkie, in the vestibule of the National Gallery:—"Sir David Wilkie, R.A., born 1785, died 1st June, 1841—a life too short for friendship, not for fame."

The Admiralty intend that Portsmouth dock-yard shall in future be lighted with gas, and one ton of 240 is this year inserted in the Navy Estimates to cover the expense.